

✓✓ Dynon 1905
Pierce

F = Geoffrey

M = Nancy Ellen
Hunt

✓ Margaret
Blackley
1907

F = John Wm

M =

Thurs

1918. Pétain was made a Marshal of France. He received the honor of being elected to the French Academy in 1929.

Political Career. Pétain served briefly as minister of war in 1934. His critics accused him of secret hostility to the French Republic and also of sympathy for the dictatorial government of Francisco Franco in Spain. He served as ambassador to Spain in 1939 and 1940. Pétain was called home to be Vice-Premier of France under Paul Reynaud in the desperate World War II days of May 1940, when France was unable to stop the German invasion. On June 16, 1940, Pétain became Premier, and, against the objections of some of his colleagues, arranged the armistice with Germany.



PLX

Henri Philippe Pétain

Collaborator. At the age of 84, Pétain became "chief of state" in the French government when its capital moved to Vichy. He accepted collaboration with Germany as an inescapable necessity. Before it dissolved, the French National Assembly voted to give Pétain full powers and authorized him to create a new constitution. He launched a "national revolution" that established political and economic institutions resembling those in fascist countries. His government undertook measures against Jews, paid heavy financial tribute to the Germans, and sent large numbers of French workers to Germany. Pétain ordered French troops stationed in North Africa to resist the Allied landings in November 1942.

The Germans overran all of France in 1942, and Pétain became powerless. After the Allied troops landed in France in June 1944, the Germans took him to Baden, where he remained until after the war.

In 1945, Pétain was returned to France. In an atmosphere of intense bitterness, he was tried for treason. At the age of 89, he was found guilty, deprived of all his honors, and sentenced to death. General Charles de Gaulle reduced his sentence to life imprisonment, and Pétain died in jail at 95.

ERNEST JOHN KNAPTON

See also FRANCE (picture: Henri Philippe Pétain).

PETAL. See FLOWER (The Corolla).